not been received by NTPC. The consturction work on this project could be completed within 56 months from the date of investment approval accorded to this project. NTPC has proposed to finance this project with a debt equity ratio of 70:30. The debt portion is proposed to be raised from domestic and external market, while equity portion shall be funded by NTPC out of its internal resources. NTPC has requested various financial institutions including IDBI to consider funding of NTPC's future capacity addition programme which inter-alia include Ramagundam State III Project also.

Rural areas without electricity

275. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seventy per cent of homes in rural areas in the country remain without electricity;

(b) what is the percentage of homes in cities and towns that remain without electricity;

(c) what is the requirement of electricity for such homes; and

(d) by when majority of homes in rural areas would be provided electrity?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) and (b) According to the 1991 Census, 31% of rural households (excluding Assam and Jammu & Kashmir) and 75.93% of urban households (excluding Assam and Jammu & Kashmir) were electrified.

(c) The requirement of electricity for rural and urban households differs from area to area and would be dependent upon various factoras like climatic conditions, income level etc.

(d) Provision of electricity to homes in rural areas is the responsibility of the State/State Electricity Boards in whose jurisdiction these areas fall. The time frame for electrification would depend upon the priority accorded to electrification in the States, factors like availability of resources for creating the required infrastructure alongwith the availability of power and demands for power from rural households.

Purchase of power from Pakistan

276. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel the need to borrow power from Pakistan a justification to Indian. economy and Government policies;

(b) whether Pakistan would be able to supply sufficient power when they themselves are facing electricity shortage;

(c) the reasons for negotiations for purchase of power from Pakistan; and

(d) the States for which the power would be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) to (d) In May, 1997, the Government of Pakistan through its High Commission in Delhi expressed interest in the export of electricity to India. The Govemment of India conveyed its interest in the proposal and expressed their willingness to send and receive technical teams for this purpose. However, it was only during November, 1998 during the Commerce Secretary level discussions on economic and commercial cooperation, both